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LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

A publication of the Louisville Historical Commission & Society
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Eileen Schmidt - Editor

THE MUSEUM CORNER

The Louisville Historical Commission held the first meeting of 1997 on January 8 at the museum. Plans for activities to take place during the coming year were discussed. Several tours through the buildings have already been arranged by various groups. Plans for the annual Society Meeting which is being held on May 4 were discussed and more information about this event will be available at a later date. The support of members of the Society is very important to the commission members. We have come to depend on the society members not only for financial aid, but also in other ways.

The executive director of the Historical Commission, Sarah Godshalk and her husband David Lehn are the proud parents of a baby girl, Zoe Peterson, born December 3, 1996. Sarah is on maternity leave at this time, but plans to resume her work with the City in February. She has been a great asset to us as our liaison with the City, keeping us informed about matters concerning our relations with the City, as well as aiding us in acquiring bids for some of the maintenance work which has been at the buildings. Sarah has also taken on some of the duties that commission members previously performed freeing them to devote more time to the work involved with the museums. Congratulations to Sarah and David on their new family member and we look forward to her return.

Gertrude Ferguson, mother of David Ferguson, treasurer of the historical commission, passed away on December 28, 1996. The members of the commission extend their condolences to David, his wife Dorothy, and their family.

The museum will continue to open on Thursday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. We are also happy to arrange tours through the buildings for anyone who is inconvenienced by our regular hours.

The video tape on the history of Louisville is still available at the museum and the price is \$18.00. We would like to remind everyone that we continue to collect artifacts to be added to our collection. Please call the museum at 666-9048 or 666-6853 if you have artifacts to contribute.

IN MEMORY OF

GERTRUDE (GERTIE) FERGUSON

Louisville Historical Commission Members

Frank Domenico.....	666-6233
Emajane Enrietto.....	666-4145
Dave Ferguson.....	666-6000
Richard Franchini.....	666-6272
Marion Junior.....	666-8283
Donald Ross.....	666-6836
Eileen Schmidt.....	666-6853
Patricia Seader.....	666-8385
Cassandra Volpe.....	665-8542

LOOKING BACK ON 1996

1996 was a very busy year for members of the Louisville Historical Commission. Most of the goals we set out to accomplish during the year were seen through to completion and others will continue to receive our attention this year. Frank Domenico became a new member of the commission replacing John Garcia who resigned after many years of faithful participation in our group.

New officers for the year were elected in February: Eileen Schmidt, Chairperson; Cassandra Volpe, Vice Chairperson; Pat Seader, Secretary; and Dave Ferguson, Treasurer.

Work was completed on the basement of the museum by the Fischers Brother Construction Company of Louisville. This work has made the basement waterproof and it can now be used as storage space. Not only was the work completed on time, but the members of the construction company cleaned the basement and entire museum before they considered their job completed. Since the dirt had to be brought out of the basement by the bucketful, the museum became very dusty and dirty and we certainly appreciated the clean-up.

A replica of the old Acme Mine, which was built by Louisville native, Leonard Lawrence, was donated to the museum by Bill Ryan who received it from the Lawrence family. Everyone visiting the museum during the past few months has shown a great deal of interest in this item. The Acme Mine was the only mine actually located within the city. It stood on what is presently known as Hutchinson Street and the dump was seen burning at the intersection of Jefferson and Hutchinson streets for many years. This later became the site where traveling shows often camped to present their programs to the people of the town.

Members of the Historical Commission presented programs to several groups throughout the year. One interesting program was a walking tour of downtown Louisville pointing out several historical buildings and sites. One of the more interesting artifacts we received was the barber chair from Fiori Tesone's barber shop located on Main Street.

May was declared history month in Louisville by proclamation of Mayor Tom Davidson. Our annual society meeting was held on May 5 to commemorate history month. Tom Meier, Director of the Boulder Historic Museum was guest speaker. He presented a program about the life of early photographer, Ed Tangen who resided in Boulder. We found that we have one of his early photographs in our collection. The meeting was well attended and the presentation was most interesting.

It was decided to try to find an old ashpit that could be moved to the grounds of the house museum. An ashpit would add a great deal to the yard as one was located in each yard as a receptacle for the ashes which accumulated in the fireboxes of the coal burning stoves. If anyone has an ashpit and no longer has a need for it, we would appreciate you contacting us. We will make necessary arrangements to have it moved to our location. Open House was held at our buildings during the Taste of Louisville on June 15. The musical group "Broken Sixpence" provided entertainment for the afternoon, but due to inclement weather, all activities were suspended early in the day.

We have provided Jan Ferrari, of the Downtown Business Association, information which will be used in compiling a walking tour of downtown Louisville.

Brochures describing this self-guided tour will be available at the motels, inns, and other businesses throughout the city for use by their patrons. Plans for this project are being completed by the Downtown Business Association.

It was decided by commission members to participate in the Labor Day festivities this year by again having an auction. Since interest in the auction had waned in the past few years, it was eventually discontinued. We decided to have a silent auction only. Elle Cabbage agreed to solicit donations for the auction from the local business people. Approximately 50 items were donated and the auction was held on the day before Labor Day at Memory Square Park. The auction was very successful and everyone seemed pleased that we were once again having an auction. An overnight stay at Harvey's in Central City was raffled on Labor Day and Dick and LaJoy Franchini were the winners. Many visitors passed through the buildings and commented on some of the new exhibits.

A group of workers from STK invited a member of our group to speak at a meeting. They were most interested in the history of Louisville and especially about the Monarch mine since they can see the memorial marker from the road.

Work on our Christmas ornaments began on September 3 and continued until the middle of November. The ornament this year was a porcelain angel whose body formed an icicle. They were beautiful and, in spite of the fact that we made 150 instead of 100 ornaments, we were completed sold out shortly after the museum opened on December 3 during the Parade of Lights. Work on the ornaments went very well this year since we had two very faithful volunteers to help us. Mary Patete and Sandy Anderson enabled us to complete the work on the ornaments on schedule. We wish to thank these two volunteers for the many hours of work they contributed.

The outside of both the store and house were painted this year by the Forbes Painting Company of Louisville. The buildings were prepared by water blasting and a new type of paint especially designed for use on old buildings where the siding has dried out so badly was applied. We are hoping that this paint will provide protection for a longer period of time. We are discussing the possibility of having a sign painted on a separate piece of material so that it can be removed when painting the outside of the buildings becomes necessary.

We have a very fine group working on the Commission at this time. Frank Domenico has spent many hours sorting and filing all the photographs. Don Ross and Dave Ferguson have done a great job overseeing work on the buildings. Marion Junior continues to put displays in our windows, is in charge of the Christmas ornament project, and countless other activities. Dick, Emajane, Pat, and Cassandra all play a very important role in our commission. Bob Enrietto and Al Schmidt have contributed many hours of volunteer work this year also. We would like to thank all members of the Commission and the many volunteers for a job well done.

PIONEER AWARD—1996

The Pioneer Award recipient selected for 1996 by the Louisville Historical Commission was L. C. "Bun" Graves. James Graves, son of Bun and Alice, and his wife were present to receive the award at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet which was held on Thursday, January 23, 1997, at the Elks Lodge in Louisville. The following information about the many contributions Mr. Graves made to Louisville and its residents were submitted to the Louisville Historical Commission by Jim and will be kept in our files at the museum. Bun Graves was definitely an outstanding person and certainly deserving of this prestigious award.

L.C. "BUN" GRAVES

L. C. "Bun" Graves was born on a dry-land farm east of Hudson, Colorado on November 5, 1905. His parents, John L. Graves and Susie Jones, had traveled by wagon from their homestead in Gage County Nebraska around the turn of the century with his older brother, William. Bun also had a younger brother, John, Jr., and a sister Darlein. Because of several years of drought, the John Graves family moved to Fort Lupton, Colorado, where Bun and his brothers and sisters went to school.

How the unique nickname of "Bun" came about goes back to when he was a baby. As a baby, he had a severe case of the colic. When his father would hold him, he would cuddle up in the nap of his father's neck. His father would say that he was his little bunny rabbit. As a result the nickname, "Bun" stayed with him throughout his life.

While working for the Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCO) in Cheyenne, Wyoming, L. C. Graves and Alice H. Winkler were married on January 8, 1929 in Brighton, Colorado.

Bun was transferred to Lafayette, Colorado by PSCO. While in Lafayette, he was the certified Scout Master of the Lafayette Troop. In September 1935, James L. Graves was born in Fort Lupton, Colorado. Because of complications during delivery, Bun almost lost both his wife and son.

In 1937, Bun moved to Louisville, Colorado, as the Local Representative for PSCO. Bun became the Scout Master for Louisville Scout Troop No. 69, where he performed those duties into the late 40's. Whenever a scouting event was planned, it took place, even if it were raining or snowing. Bun was very proud of Vernon Zurich when he reached the status as an Eagle Scout.

As the Local Representative for PSCO, Bun was on 24 hour call, seven days a week to provide electrical service to the community. This included installing electric meters, reading those meters on a monthly basis, trouble shooting and repairing any electrical outages, and performing public relations for PSCO within the community. Bun's assigned area of responsibility was Louisville, Broomfield, Superior, Marshall, Eldorado Springs, and South Boulder.

During WWII, Bun was a certified First Aid Instructor by the United Mine Workers and taught residents basic first aid.

Whenever Louisville's servicemen and servicewomen would come home on leave during WWII, Bun would photograph each one with their families with a movie camera. Bun would then edit the movie film by inserting the name of each one. This unique and priceless record of the WWII Military Personnel was later donated to the Louisville Historical Society.

During and after WWII, Bun was the Civil Defense Director and directed the various functions associated with the Civil Defense Program. Bun was also active in the Louisville Fire Department and served as Fire Chief. Bun helped formulate and establish the Rural Fire District around Louisville. With the establishment of the Rural Fire District, the Louisville Fire Department was able to procure the first pumper fire truck carrying water to fight fires outside of the city limits. This new truck was in turn housed in the newly constructed Fire Station located behind City Hall. Bun was also an active member of the Colorado State Firefighters' association.

Bun was instrumental in establishing the initial Louisville Auxiliary Police Unit in support of the Police Department.

Bun supported the Louisville High School athletic program for many years when he would drive the football players to away games (before buses became available), assist in taping the ankles and knees of the players, keep the time on the football field or basketball court, announce football and American Legion baseball games over the Public Address System (which he personally furnished). No matter how busy Bun appeared to be, he attended all of the athletic functions that his son, Jim, participated.

Bun served as the Louisville School Board Secretary. This active School Board consisted of Glen Fischer, Otto Schreiter, and Bun. This School Board spent many and long tedious hours working closely with Superintendent Sam Barbiero. When the son or daughter of each of these four members graduated, they had the opportunity to present their diploma to them.

Bun was an active member of the Masonic AF & AM Lodge for more than fifty years and received his 50-year pin honoring him for his years of service. He was Master of Lafayette AF & AM Masonic Lodge No. 711. He also served as Worthy Patron, Lafayette Eastern Star Lodge, where his wife Alice was Worthy Matron.

Bun also served the City of Louisville as Treasurer.

With the growing pains that the City of Louisville was experiencing, the need for curbs and gutters became a pressing need. Plans were prepared and the tremendous task of installing the curbs and gutters was begun. To help this project along, Bun voluntarily visited the various homeowners and prepared the necessary contracts and loan applications for their property. The support of the homeowners was overwhelming and the curb and gutter

project was completed in record time. Only one property owner did not pay off their loan, which in itself is amazing. These curbs, gutters, and drains were installed in Old Town Louisville before the City sewer system was installed.

Bun was an active member of the Louisville Lions Club with perfect attendance for more than thirty five years. For a good number of those years, on behalf of the Lions Club, Bun would solicit the local establishment for contributions for the Annual Christmas Tree Candy giveaway each Christmas Eve. Having collected the monies, Bun would purchase the necessary supplies and on the morning of Christmas Eve, with the help of the local Rainbow Girls and members of the Lions Club, sack the candy, nuts, popcorn balls, and oranges. These sacks (close to 1000) in turn were loaded into a truck awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus at the Town Christmas Tree (Bun helped put the lights on the tree) on Christmas Eve. As Santa Claus, Bun would greet all of the town's children and parents while the sacks of candy were handed out. Bun received great satisfaction in seeing the happy faces of the children when they talked to Santa Claus. Bun felt that all of the hard work was well worth the effort when the town's eighty year old citizens would come to the tree and ask Santa if he had an extra sack of candy for them. The sparkle in their eyes that there was a Santa Claus was very gratifying. Bun also visited the many Elementary School class rooms as well as supported the Boulder County Christmas Parties.

Bun and Alice retired in 1969 and traveled the United States, mostly to visit their four grandchildren. Bun and Alice celebrated their 50 years of marriage with friends in February, 1979 at a party and house warming hosted by their son, Jim and their family. In September, 1979, Leslie Clarence "L.C. 'Bun" Graves passed away and was laid to rest in the Louisville Cemetery. His wife Alice, suddenly died in October 1989 and rests beside him.

L. C. "Bun" Graves gave of himself to the City of Louisville. Bun was truly a pioneer of Louisville.

--compiled by James L. Graves, December, 1996

WOMEN IN HISTORY

March is known as "Women in History" month. Women have always played an important role in the history of Louisville as they stood beside their men keeping the family together during the strikes and other crises connected with the coal mining industry.

During the early days of the community, most of the responsibilities of raising the children were assumed by the wives of the miners, but it was not unusual to see the women taking part in union rallies and other activities affecting their husbands outside the home. They were always there for each other during times of trouble to lend a helping hand when friends and relatives were faced with problems.

In addition to the courageous wives and mothers of the miners, there were also some well-known women who became a part of Louisville history. Two such ladies were Mary Harris Jones and Josephine Roche who became very

important to the miners and their families as good friends and firm supporters.

Mary Harris was born near Cork, Ireland in 1830. When famine swept the country shortly after her birth, her father, Richard Harris, came to the United States and established citizenship. In 1838, his wife and three children joined him in Toronto, Canada where his work with the railroad had taken him. Mary eventually became a teacher and secured a job in Memphis, Tennessee, where she married George Jones who worked as an iron molder. Following an epidemic of yellow fever, which claimed the lives of her husband and four children, she traveled to Chicago where she became a dressmaker and was known as a champion of the garment workers in the East. It was here that she became known as "Mother Jones." Her seamstress business was destroyed by the great Chicago fire in 1871. She was known for her direct manner of speaking and when a college professor, present at a union rally, referred to her as a "humanitarian," she corrected him saying that she was a "hell raiser" instead. Before the turn of the century, she was involved in many labor conflicts centered in the East and South. She fought corruption and discrimination in all areas of labor, speaking out against "child slavery," and unsafe working conditions. Mother Jones was a staunch supporter of the eight-hour working day.

Instead of losing interest in the cause of the working man as she grew older, she became a more zealous supporter of the workers of America.

By 1901, relations between the miners and the mine operators in the coal mines of Colorado were becoming somewhat strained. Although most of Mother Jones's work in Colorado centered around Ludlow in the southern Colorado coal fields, she did appear in the northern fields as well. The miners were threatening to strike for the eight-hour work day, pay with money instead of scrip, and checkweighmen who were not controlled by the mine operators. In January 1901, without the sanction of the national organization, the members of the United Mine Workers of America called for a strike and for the first time stockades were built around some of the mines. After a short time, some reforms were offered. Wages rose a little, miners were paid with money, instead of scrip, and they paid less for blasting powder. Even though the union was not officially recognized by the miners, the union organizers felt they had succeeded in assuring the miners' membership. In 1903, many miners feared they were losing the gains they had made just two years before. Mother Jones, in spite of the reservations of John Mitchell, president of the U.M.W.A. decided to help with the task of further unionizing the Colorado coal fields. She was described as being a sweet, grandmotherly, white-haired Irish lady who spoke the rough, undignified language of the working man. She had become known as the "angel of the miners," after her work in helping organize unions in the eastern coal fields of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Mother Jones was reported to have visited Louisville on November 21, 1903. Many local people recall

having been very impressed by her manner of speech. On November 30, 1903, after she had returned to the East, the strikers voted to return to work. Years later, she did return to Colorado as an organizer for the Industrial Worker of the World Union.

Mother Mary Jones lived for one hundred years, quietly slipping away on November 30, 1930. A granite monument in Mt. Olive, Illinois was dedicated to her memory on October 18, 1936.

Josephine Roche, the daughter of John Roche who served as treasurer of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company and later went on to become president of the board of directors, was another woman who was dedicated to improving the working conditions of the miners. Although Miss Roche was born into a very wealthy family, studied at Vassar College and Columbia University, she became interested in the coal industry after her father moved his family to Denver so he could be closer to his work with the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company. After John Roche died in 1927, Josephine inherited his financial interests in the fuel company. Miss Roche convinced the members of the board of the company to hire Merle D. Vincent, an attorney, as vice president of the board and general manager of the company. She and Vincent were very critical of the conditions under which the miners worked, but Miss Roche did not possess controlling shares in the company and had to defer major decisions in favor of the miners until she could gain control. In March 1928, Josephine Roche was able to purchase the holdings of a Denver businessman, thus procuring 51 percent of the firm's stock. By June 1928, three-fourths of the Northern coal fields had voted to accept the United Mine Workers as their union. A contract was signed with the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company which was to take effect on September 1. The miners working in mines operated by the company were granted several concessions. They would work eight-hour shifts, six days a week with eight paid holidays each year, and the daily wage was increased to \$7.00 which made them the highest paid miners in the state of Colorado. The company agreed to two paydays a month, a checkweighman at each mine and a grievance committee was formed to handle problems as they arose.

Soon the depression of the 1920's and 1930's was felt by everyone, including the miners and their families. Miss Roche, the company, and the miners seemed to do pretty well during the early years of the depression, but they were dealt quite a blow when C.F. and I. of southern Colorado received permission from the Industrial Commission to lower wages. This action caused a drop in the price of coal. By this time, natural gas was being piped into Colorado and less coal was being used. In spite of the fact that Miss Roche was forced to lower the earnings of the men to \$5.25 per day, she took steps to ensure their jobs and homes. She ordered her stores to extend credit to all who were in need and supplied house paint and other materials needed to maintain their homes. For the next several years, she worked intermittently with the Rocky Mountain Fuel

Company. During the presidential term of Franklin D. Roosevelt, she served in several governmental positions. She was director of the National Youth Administration (NYA) at one point in her career. In 1937, she again took over management of the ailing fuel company and secured loans from John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers union, many of her friends, and she also sought aid from the federal government in an attempt to maintain the jobs and the well-being of the miners. The Rocky Mountain Fuel company operated the Monarch Mine when an explosion occurred there on January 20, 1936. After a lengthy investigation into the cause of the accident, the company was found negligent. In 1944, the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company declared bankruptcy. Josephine Roche became an assistant to John L. Lewis and in 1947 was made director of the United Mine workers pension fund. She remained in this position until her death in 1971 and she will always be remembered as one who showed concern and support for the coal miners and their families.

Several local women are remembered by many for their roles in the history of this area. In the book entitled "Once a Coal Miner," by Phyllis Smith, the author tells the story of Elizabeth Beranek, a Lafayette resident, who was a strong supporter of the miners. Each morning she appeared with her children at the head of the lines of people picketing the Columbine Mine during the strike of 1927. She carried a large American flag. Mrs. Beranek, whose husband, Joe, was a miner, was the mother of seventeen children and her six sons eventually became coal miners. Because of her persistence on behalf of the miners, she was referred to as the "Amazon" by a Denver newspaper.

On January 23, 1932, the First State Bank in Louisville was robbed. The only person working in the bank at the time was Annie Varley, Assistant Cashier. Two young customers had entered during the robbery. Before the robbers left the bank, Annie Varley and the customers were locked in the vault. Because of an inside lock, the hostages were able to free themselves and Annie was able to give a complete description of the robbers which resulted in their apprehension by the police. Mrs. Varley was commended for remaining calm and assisting the police.

Many women have been active in politics even when they were not able to vote themselves. Victoria Clafin Woodhull became the first woman in the United States to seek the office of president. She was born in Homer, Ohio, in 1838 into a very poor, eccentric family. Victoria married several times, although divorce was almost unheard of at that time, she was divorced at least three times. One of her husbands, helped her and her sister to begin a stock brokerage business. This proved to be quite a successful venture and with their profits the sisters founded a women's rights and reform magazine known as the "Woodhull and Clafin Weekly." Victoria's ardent speeches on womens' suffrage won her a place among the leaders of the movement. In May 1872, she organized a new political party and held a convention of the Equal Rights party. She accepted its

nomination for president and the former slave, Frederick Douglass, the Vice Presidential candidate, refused to take part in the campaign, but Victoria went to the polls and made a futile attempt to vote. After this defeat, she returned to writing and lecturing. She became involved in many scandals involving very prominent people. After her marriage to John Martin, a member of a very wealthy English banking family, she made her home in England. In 1892, she and her daughter began publishing a magazine, "The Humanitarian." During her many visits to the United States, she stirred up old scandals and became involved in some very unpleasant situations. Even though she became noted for her charitable works, she was never accepted by the socially elite in England where she died in 1927.

The designation of March as "Women in History" month is a fitting tribute to all women who continue to make many important and worthwhile contributions to history each day.

(Some of the information in this article was taken from the book entitled "Once a Coal Miner" by Phyllis Smith and from information found in The Boulder Camera.)

MEMORIES

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?--

It cost 10¢ for children and 25¢ for adults to attend the movies.

A loaf of bread cost 10¢ at the grocery store.

Enough steak for an entire family could be purchased for 15¢.

The Louisville High School was located on Garfield Street.

The Louisville Grade School was located on Jefferson and Spruce Streets and Louisville had its own school district.

Billy Austin had a small store across the street from the grade school where you could buy a sackful of candy for a few pennies.

A grocery store was located in each neighborhood.

The old Redman Hall was the center of all the social activities held in town.

The old City Hall housed the city offices, the police station, which had a jail cell, and the town library.

An amateur hour was held each year at the Rex theater during the fall festival.

The local Lions Club provided treats for all the children of the town on Christmas Eve at the local Christmas tree located in the intersection of Main and Spruce Streets and everyone was there.

All the family's clothing from shoes to underwear could be purchased in one or two stores in Louisville.

Trees were planted by the grade school classes along the border of the grade school.

Schools plays were so well attended by people of the community, there was often "standing room only."

You could buy a "coke" at the local drug store for 5¢ and a small ice cream sundae cost 10¢.

A "store bought" cookie was a rare treat.

Wonderful smells of the Ostrander Bakery permeated the whole downtown area.

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